

April 25, 2007
**OPENING STATEMENT OF
THE HONORABLE RALPH HALL
RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MARKUP OF:**

- H.R. 1867, *National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2007*
- H.R. 1868, *Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007*
- H. Con Res. 95, *Honoring the Career and Research Accomplishments of Frances E. Allen, the 2006 Recipient of the A.M. Turing Award*
- H. Res. 316, *Recognizing the accomplishments of Roger D. Kornberg, Andrew Fire, Craig Mello, John C. Mather, and George F. Smoot for being award Nobel Prizes in the fields of chemistry, physiology or medicine, and physics*

Thank you, Chairman Gordon, for the chance to make some opening remarks about today's markup. Today we are considering two authorization bills related to the President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) and two resolutions honoring the accomplishments of eminent American scientists.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Authorization Act of 2007, H.R. 1867, authorizes funding for NSF for the next three fiscal years. This measure goes a long way in keeping with the President's ACI plan to double the budget within ten years. In fact, it goes slightly beyond that to incorporate some of the additions to education programs that the House passed yesterday. I appreciate the work of the subcommittee ranking member, Mr. Ehlers, for his dedication and work on this bill and thank the Chairman and Mr. Baird for their willingness to cooperate on making this a bipartisan endeavor. I look forward to our continuing to work together to improve this legislation and pass it with broad support.

I am pleased to be an original co-sponsor of H.R. 1868, the Technology Innovation and Manufacturing Stimulation Act of 2007. H.R.1868 supports the President's ACI by setting NIST's lab budget on a path to double the budget by fiscal year 2017. The bill will ensure America's small and medium-sized manufacturers have access to the latest technologies and processes by authorizing the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program. Finally, H.R. 1868 authorizes the Technology Innovation Program to promote the swift development of high-risk research into marketable technologies. I thank Dr. Ehlers and Dr. Gingrey for their extensive input in developing this bill and my Democratic colleagues for incorporating our priorities into this bipartisan legislation.

I also am pleased the Committee will honor six esteemed American scientists today. H.Con.Res 95 recognizes the first woman to receive the prestigious computer science A. M. Turner award, Frances Allen. H. Res. 316 honors the five American scientists who received Nobel prizes in 2006: Roger Kornberg for chemistry; Andrew Fire for medicine; Craig Mello for medicine; John Mather for physics; and George Smoot for physics.

Before I close, I want to point out that the NSF and NIST bills, both major pieces of legislation, were developed after only one hearing on each topic. Those hearings were at the Subcommittee level, so only a few Members of the Committee were able to attend the hearings. In the case of the NIST bill there was never a hearing on the new Technology Innovation Program. In fact, these two bills were put together so quickly that we have yet to receive all of the witnesses' responses to questions for the record submitted by Members of this Committee. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, while I support these bills in their

current form, once I have reviewed all of the witnesses responses I, or other Members, may want to propose further amendments to these bills when they are considered on the House floor.

With that I yield back the balance of my time.